

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for the gasification of coal wherein a slurry of coal in water and oxygen or air are supplied to a gasification reactor, comprising heating characterized in that the slurry of coal in water with a heating medium having a temperature of 200°C to 600°C and selected from the group consisting of high temperature steam, hot oil, molten salts, or gases, or combination thereof to provide uniform heat is heated to thereby vaporize at least a part of the water in the slurry, and fed feeding a mixture of coal, water, and steam thus formed to the gasification reactor, feeding and gaseous oxygen or air is fed to the gasification reactor whereby where the coal is subjected to partial oxidation and steam reforming, and separately withdrawing a gasification gas and a slag thus formed are withdrawn separately from the gasification reactor.
2. (original) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein substantially all of the water is supplied in a form of steam to the gasification reactor.
3. (previously presented) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein a mixture is supplied to the gasification reactor, the mixture being obtained by heating the slurry of coal in water from 150°C to 450°C at a pressure of 0.2 MPa to 11.5 MPa to thereby vaporize

at least a part of the water.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein a water content is in a range from 27 to 50 wt.% based on a total weight of the slurry.

6. (previously presented) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein the coal is pneumatically transferred by steam into the gasification reactor, the steam being obtained by heating the slurry of coal in water.